

Approved For Release 2004/08/31 : CIA-RDP72-00310R000200120011-1

DD/S 70-4280

22 OCT 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: GAO Inquiry Re Access to Agency Files and Documents

1. I agreed to pick up action responsibility in connection with the GAO inquiry set out in [] memorandum dated 22 October 1970, copy attached. After discussing the subject with Mr. Bush, I decided to call Mr. Hamilton rather than going to Mr. Stromvall, International Division, GAO. I asked Mr. Hamilton if he would elaborate his requirement so that we could better understand what was needed. He specified that there was no specific problem but that he had been asked by his superior, Mr. John Milgate, to determine what various Government organizations had by way of manual or regulatory issuances on dealing with the General Accounting Office. He cited as an example that the Department of State has a section in the Foreign Affairs Manual under foreign assistance which specifies what papers GAO can and cannot see. He also indicated that GAO had had some problems with Treasury and State on questions of access and his office was attempting to compile a picture of the officially published positions. I asked if Mr. Milgate knew the relationship between CIA and GAO, and Mr. Hamilton said he must assume that Mr. Milgate does. I then said that, since CIA and GAO have no formal relationship, CIA had not felt it necessary to codify its manner of dealing with GAO matters. I also said that if GAO had a special subject matter we would be prepared to deal with it accordingly.

2. Mr. Hamilton, who appeared to be very nervous throughout the conversation, seemed greatly relieved to learn that we had no formal issuance and stated that this satisfied his inquiry.

[]

Assistant Deputy Director
for Support

Att

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ADD/S:JWC/ms (22 Oct 70) - INTERNAL USE ONLY

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22 October 1970

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SUBJECT: GAO Inquiry Re Access to Agency Files and Documents

Arthur L

1. I received a call from a Mr. Hamilton, telephone: 101-23536, who identified himself as being a member of the General Accounting Office, State Department Audit Site, with offices in New State.

2. Mr. Hamilton has been given the assignment of gathering information from several agencies concerning agency manual provisions or published instructions relating to access to files or documents by GAO representatives. He is interested in talking to an Agency person who can advise him about the Agency policy or position in this problem and possible review of our manual or instructions on the subject.

3. I asked Mr. Hamilton if he had a particular problem in mind that might illustrate the "problem" as he called it. He responded that he did not have, that he had been given this assignment to check several agencies by his supervisors.

4. I thanked him for the call and told him I would relay his query and be back in touch with him possibly late in the day today.

[Redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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Orig. - Subject
1 - Chrono

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